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THE ULTIMATES™ 2

ISSUE

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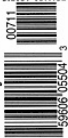
WOLF IN THE FOLD

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MILLAR
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MARVEL

When faced with Nazi Germany's military advances, the U.S. government decided that the best weapon against them was a person, not a bomb. With this in mind, Steve Rogers volunteered for a covert military experiment that turned him into Captain America. After a few years of exemplary service, Captain America fell in battle—his body wasn't recovered. Years passed and Captain America was found frozen in suspended animation. When he awoke, he was convinced to join Iron Man, The Wasp, Giant Man, Black Widow, Hawkeye, and Thor in forming the superhuman defense initiative run by Nick Fury, called The Ultimates.

PREVIOUSLY IN THE ULTIMATES:

After saving the world from an alien invasion, the Ultimates were hailed as the world's greatest celebrities. Unfortunately, times have changed.

The Hulk has been executed for a murderous rampage through Manhattan. Thor, supposed God of Thunder, has been locked away after being revealed as a mentally-unbalanced human. The Wasp's relationship with Captain America is on the rocks, and her ex-husband, Hank Pym (former Ultimate member Giant Man who was kicked off the team for spousal abuse), has been in communication with an unidentified traitor within the team's ranks.

Further stretching the resolve of the already fraying team are the events of six weeks ago...

WOLF IN THE FOLD



STAND LEE PRESENTS:

THE ULTIMATES

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PERKINS

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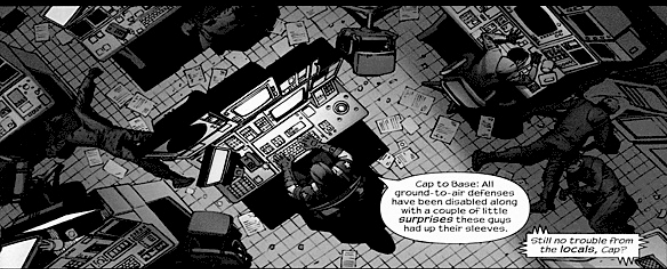
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Middle East nuclear facility,
six weeks ago:





Security spotted me fifteen seconds ago, but they'll need a full *half minute* to react and cock their weapons.



FIRE!



Okay, Quicksilver. We're good to go.









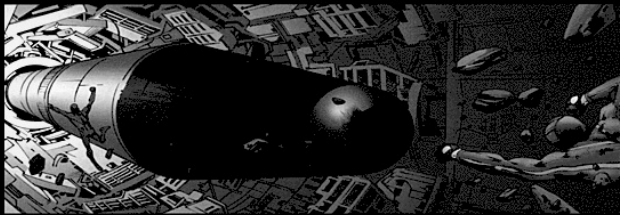
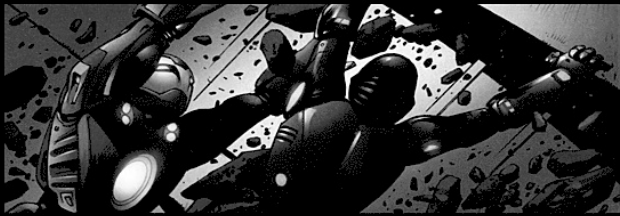
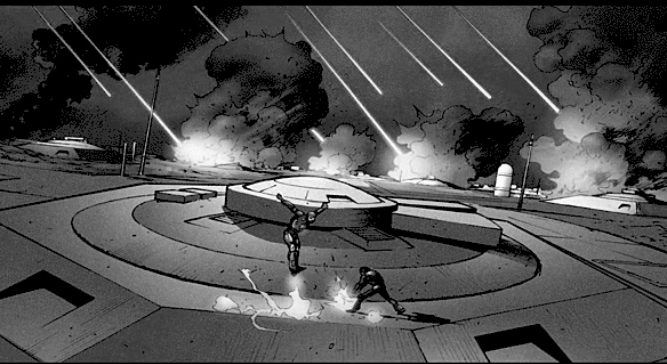


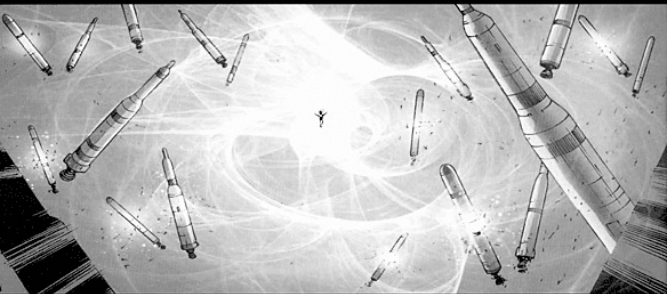
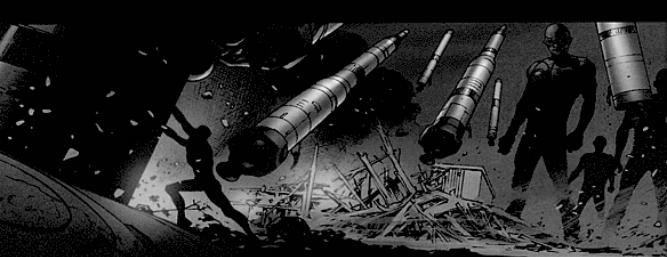
**Iron Man, Black Widow,
Captains Italy, Spain
and Britain--**

**On it,
Nick.**

*Tony and I
will take the North
end. The rest of you
can take the South.*









Okay, I want everybody out of here and into the trucks. We got food and toilet facilities ten miles up the road. We're doing this for your own protection, people--



The Triskellion, today:



You hear about the protestors?

Billions of dollars in security and eight of my disciples *still* manage to barricade themselves inside the canteen.

This is why you're going to *lose*, Tony...the tighter you squeeze, the more they'll just slip through your fingers.

And when did I become one of the *bad guys*?

Around the same time you took part in that preemptive strike against a Third World country.



A Third World country with nuclear weapons.

I think you'll find the only nation that's ever used nuclear weapons against other human beings is the one you pledged an oath of allegiance to.



Oh, stop being an idiot, Thor. These people were targeting neighbors at the same time they were assuring us they didn't even have a weapons program.

What would you have done in our situation? Crossed your fingers?



They've got you, haven't they?

All they have to do now is say "nuclear weapons" and Tony Stark just falls into line like the rest of them.



Do you think that's how they'll get you to invade all their other target countries? Supposing they decide China's a threat a few years down the line?

Now you're just being ridiculous.



I used to think you were the smart one, Tony.



Listen, I didn't come down here to talk about *politics*. I just wanted to clear the air after everything that happened in Norway.

You've got to appreciate that these *delusions* you were having were completely out of control, Thor. You were hitting *policemen* back in Italy...



I am Thor, God of Thunder. Son of Odin and half-brother to the wretched Loki, God of Mischief...



Oh. For God's sake.



I came here to save the world from *the war to end all wars* and we still have time to *stop* this, Tony.

Guard, I think we're done here.



Fury has to turn back *now*. These aggressive acts are only confirming the worst fears of his enemies and they're already taking steps *against* you, Tony.

Goodbye, Thor.



Tell your boss he has a *wolf* in his fold.

Tell him he has *one last chance* before the other side *retaliates*.

Manhattan:







Go between this and the fact they haven't used me on the last two missions I'm starting to feel a little *alienated* up there.

Betty Ross said I'm scoring really low on all the market research they've been doing. I'm even behind these new *Giant Men* they brought over from the Green Berets.

God, I *hate* those guys. Did you see them on that *Sixty Minutes* special last week?



They're *morons*. Anyway, change the subject. Cheer me up and tell me what's been happening with you.



Oh, nothing special. The *Defenders* turned out to be a complete disaster and this *company* I'm working for now is just really, really *boring*.



I'd much rather talk about *you*, honey...





You think there was an atmosphere between Steve and Jan tonight?



What makes you say that?

I don't know. It's like every time he said something she was rolling her eyes. She just seemed to be poking fun at him all the time.

I never noticed anything.



For a guy called "Hawkeye," you don't really notice much, do you?

You go on up to bed and get some sleep, honey. Callum and I got this covered. Nicole's gonna be through in a couple of hours so you might as well grab a catnap while you can.

What are you doing making coffee at this time? You know it's only gonna keep you awake.



It's not for me, it's for the security guys. We always used to appreciate a little coffee when I was on an all-night shift.

I just don't want them thinking I'm some kinda jerk.

Clint, they have *sweepstakes* to see who get to be our bodyguards. You're *John Wayne* to these people.



That'll be Wanda back for her purse. Poor girl was so tipsy going out that door she could hardly string the words together for their *disappearing* spell.



Somebody forget their--











Relax, Clint. He's up in heaven with his mother now.

Big surprise?



I SWEAR I'M GOING TO KILL YOU FOR THIS...



Now you're just being stupid, soldier.



To be continued